

Workforce Observations

For The North Central WDA

August, 2002



Employment Picture In July Somewhat Mixed

The month of July is usually regarded as the month of highest employment, coming as it does right in the middle of the summer. This is not necessarily true for many reasons and it depends on the part of the state. Nonetheless, this warm month has been a good one historically as far as low rates of unemployment

almost 44,000. Job gains in trade and service over last summer were also small, and compared to last month, downright mediocre. It is hard to shake the impression that things are slowing up a bit all cross the board.

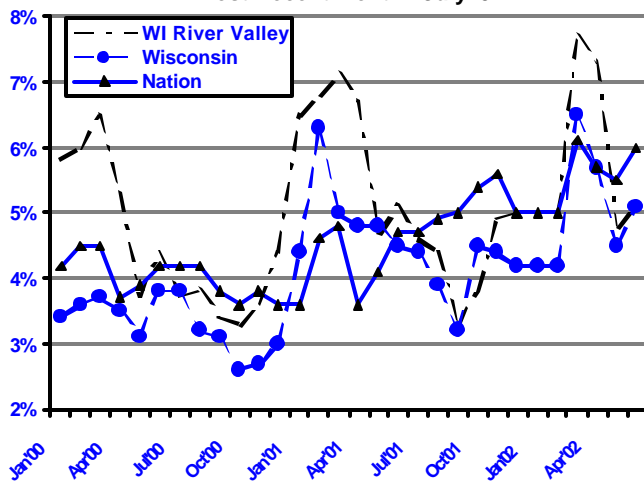
All River Counties In July -

Total nonfarm wage and salary employment in the most recent month stood at about 206,000 jobs, up by over 2,000 from the same period of 12 months ago. There was a decline of about 1,300 jobs from June, but this is an insignificant number in a field of nearly 206,000 positions. Manufacturing, both durable and nondurable goods has shown little change over either the one month or 12 month periods, fluctuating only 2,500 or so. Pretty much the same may be said of trade and service employment over the same periods. About the only industrial sector that was largely unchanged over the last year has been FIRE (finance, insurance, and real estate). There were gains in services as well, probably in the area of business services, which is one part of this industry that has been increasing steadily throughout the state. Not only has this element of the service sector been increasing, but the different types of services have been growing, as well, providing things unheard of 15 or 20 years ago.

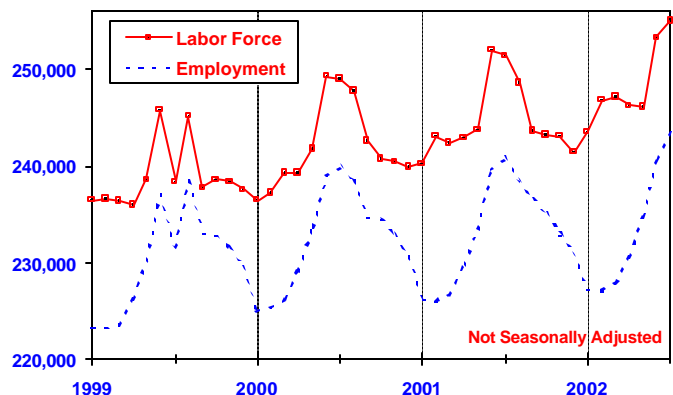
and high job numbers go. The seasonal factors that spell jobs are solidly in place by now. So, as we look around the Upper Wisconsin River District, what do we see in the employment picture, especially when compared to the previous month (June) and with the same period of 12 months ago? Rates of unemployment were certainly low enough for this time of the year, but not by a great amount, and in one county (Wood) actually went up a bit. Compared to July of last year, things look about the same, except that in some areas the rates are even higher, even if by small percentage points.

In the industrial picture, actual job numbers are all over the place. Some traditionally strong "summer" industries, like construction, have definitely taken a bit of a downturn. Even though building activity gained about 180 positions compared to June of this year, the declines from last year were better than 1,600 jobs. Manufacturing gained only about 1,000, which is insignificant in a field of

**The Unemployment Rate
Most Recent Month - July '02**



**Civilian Labor Force
Wisconsin River Valley**



*Please visit the Marathon County Job Center Website!
We are presently housed at a temporary location at Tripod and
can be found at this addie—
<http://freelmi.tripod.com/maracent.html>*

In The Core Counties -

Nondurable goods manufacturing employment levels gained almost 1,000 jobs in July. This sector includes paper products as well as food processing, two important businesses in our area. Part of this increase may be due to increases in the latter industry as the early vegetable harvests in certain places begins to pick up. It is a bit too early for potatoes, but snap beans are

probably being hauled to the cannery near the end of the month and this will mean that the summer crews there will be hired and in place. This seasonal employment has been an annual phenomenon for generations in the Central Wisconsin area., but there have been changes. The processors are now international companies rather than the small local canneries of yesterday



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http://www.wis.gov.state.wi.us/build_wis.asp

Month of July	Adams	Forest	Lang.	Lincoln	Mara.	Oneida	Portage	Vilas	Wood	Region
Labor Force	9,283	5,098	9,762	15,125	77,606	23,093	38,002	12,553	42,434	232,956
Employed	8,928	4,786	9,115	14,160	74,285	22,012	36,115	12,109	40,116	221,626
Unemployed	355	312	647	965	3,321	1,081	1,887	444	2,318	11,330
Unemployment rate(%)	3.8	6.1	6.6	6.4	4.3	4.7	5.0	3.5	5.5	4.9%
Total, all industries**	4,465	3,469	7,877	12,180	70,445	19,748	32,981	9,822	45,004	205,991
Construction & Mining	215	128	380	432	2,965	1,566	1,133	1,005	1,695	9,519
Manufacturing	421	467	1,663	3,838	18,485	1,901	6,769	456	9,787	43,787
Transportation & Util.	211	254	376	434	4,146	637	2,057	204	3,248	11,567
Wholesale Trade	142	41	348	409	5,468	559	1,516	261	1,484	10,228
Retail Trade	909	534	1,849	2,325	13,451	5,631	5,952	2,963	7,964	41,578
FIRE	97	105	264	745	4,744	457	3,618	305	972	11,307
Services	1,333	491	2,019	1,984	14,268	6,435	7,301	2,647	14,997	51,475
Government	1,137	1,449	978	2,013	6,918	2,562	4,635	1,981	4,857	26,530
Change from previous mo.	Adams	Forest	Lang.	Lincoln	Mara.	Oneida	Portage	Vilas	Wood	Region
Civilian Labor Force*	108	3	120	136	-19	-665	-878	-281	-95	-1,571
Employed	72	-22	61	11	-448	-697	-859	-383	74	-2,191
Unemployed	36	25	59	125	429	32	-19	102	-169	620
Unemployment rate(%)	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.8	-0.3	0.1
Total, all industries**	-100	-218	-218	-206	-735	224	329	262	-790	-1,452
Construction & Mining	15	2	2	45	62	28	6	-16	23	167
Manufacturing	-1	-12	-12	-25	181	-123	954	8	-16	954
Transportation & Util.	1	-19	-19	-55	-60	-30	57	-9	-107	-241
Wholesale Trade	1	-1	-1	-8	73	-2	-14	-5	-26	17
Retail Trade	-7	8	8	-21	-265	160	-79	135	-146	-207
FIRE	-3	-3	-3	-6	0	1	3	5	-9	-15
Services	-8	53	53	13	12	465	-30	426	-24	960
Government	-98	-246	-246	-149	-738	-275	-568	-282	-485	-3,087
Change from year ago	Adams	Forest	Lang.	Lincoln	Mara.	Oneida	Portage	Vilas	Wood	Region
Civilian Labor Force*	395	552	-145	-36	180	597	-428	309	730	2,154
Employed	397	508	-143	-240	-376	306	-695	169	345	271
Unemployed	-2	44	-2	204	556	291	267	140	385	1,883
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.2	0.2	0.0	1.4	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.1
Total, all industries**	178	374	-54	-224	328	431	171	630	278	2,112
Construction & Mining	16	-8	-123	-199	-638	69	-287	-94	-356	-1,620
Manufacturing	-20	-44	-109	-348	-750	-321	-133	-95	-477	-2,297
Transportation & Util.	27	39	32	21	202	-7	141	-27	66	494
Wholesale Trade	22	-8	-128	-17	281	169	-149	117	57	344
Retail Trade	-29	11	-27	-89	1,162	137	565	388	-115	2,003
FIRE	-7	6	4	486	-132	-14	-133	-18	42	234
Services	188	-27	380	42	252	403	-100	111	661	1,910
Government	-19	405	-83	-120	-49	-5	267	248	400	1,044

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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